



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 11794]

Notification of United States-Chile Environmental Affairs Council and Joint Commission for Environmental Cooperation Meetings

ACTION: Notice of the upcoming United States-Chile Environmental Affairs Council and Joint Commission for Environmental Cooperation meetings and request for comments; invitation to public session.

SUMMARY: The Department of State and the Office of the United States Trade Representative are providing notice that the parties to the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA) intend to hold the ninth meeting of the Environmental Affairs Council (Council) established under Chapter 19 of the FTA, as well as the seventh meeting of the United States-Chile Joint Commission for Environmental Cooperation (Commission) established under the United States-Chile Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA), on August 22, 2022. The Council will review implementation of Chapter 19 (Environment) of the FTA, and the Commission will review implementation of the ECA. During the Council and Commission meetings, Members will discuss the progress made in implementing Chapter 19 obligations and the impacts of environmental cooperation. The Commission will also explore opportunities for collaboration under Environmental Cooperation Work Program for 2021-2024. More information on the Council and Commission is included below under SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

All interested persons are invited to attend the Council and Commission joint public session in person beginning at 10 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time on August 23, 2022, in Washington, D.C. There will also be a link provided for those that would like to participate virtually. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss implementation of Chapter 19 and the ECA with Council and Commission Members and

environmental cooperation implementers. At the public session, the Council will receive input from the public on current environmental issues and ideas for future cooperation.

The Department of State and Office of the United States Trade Representative invite written comments or suggestions regarding topics to be discussed at the meeting. In preparing comments, we encourage submitters to refer to Chapter 19 of the FTA and the ECA (available at <https://www.state.gov/key-topics-office-of-environmental-quality-and-transboundary-issues/current-trade-agreements-with-environmental-chapters/#chile>).

Instructions on how to submit comments are under the heading ADDRESSES AND RSVP.

DATES: The public session of the Council and Commission will be held on August 23, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Eastern Daylight Time. Please contact Neal Morris and Tia Potskhverashvili for the location of this meeting and connection information for virtual participation. We request RSVPs and any written comments no later than August 15, 2022, in order to facilitate consideration.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or suggestions should be submitted to both:

(1) Neal Morris, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Office of Environmental Quality, by e-mail at MorrisND@state.gov with the subject line “UNITED STATES-CHILE EAC/JCEC MEETING” and

(2) Tia Potskhverashvili, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Office of Environment and Natural Resources, by email at tiapots@ustr.eop.gov with the subject line “UNITED STATES-CHILE EAC/JCEC MEETING”

In your RSVP, please include your full name and affiliation.

If you have access to the Internet, you can view and comment on this notice by going to: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!home> and searching for docket number **DOS- 2022-0020**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Neal Morris, (202) 550-6348, MorrisND@state.gov, and Tia Potskhverashvili, (202) 395-5414, tiapots@ustr.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States and Chile negotiated the United States-Chile FTA and United States-Chile ECA in concert, signing the FTA on June 6, 2003, in Miami, USA and the ECA on June 17, 2003, in Santiago, Chile. Article 19.3 of the FTA establishes an Environment Affairs Council (Council). The Council discusses implementation of Chapter 19 of the FTA, and its meetings include a public session. The Joint Commission on Environmental Cooperation (Commission) was established in Article II of the ECA. The Commission evaluates cooperative activities under the ECA, recommends options for improving cooperation, and establishes work programs that reflect national priorities and that identify the scope and focus of environmental cooperation activities. Commission meetings also include a public session.

The Council and Commission last met in September 2018 in Santiago, Chile. The Council reviewed the implementation of the Environment Chapter of the FTA. The Commission approved the 2018-2020 Work Program, which built on previous successes and identified activities to achieve the long-term goals of: (1) strengthening effective implementation and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations; (2) encouraging development and adoption of sound environmental practices and technologies, particularly in business enterprises; (3) promoting sustainable development and management of environmental resources, including wild fauna and flora, protected wild areas, and other ecologically important ecosystems; and (4) encouraging civil society participation in the environmental decision-making process and environmental education. If you would like to attend the public session, please notify Neal Morris and Tia Potskhverashvili at the email addresses listed above under the heading ADDRESSES

AND RSVP. Please include your full name and identify any organization or group you represent. In preparing comments, we encourage submitters to refer to:

- Chapter 19 of the FTA and
- the ECA.

These documents are available at: <https://www.state.gov/key-topics-office-of-environmental-quality-and-transboundary-issues/current-trade-agreements-with-environmental-chapters/#chile> and <https://ustr.gov/issue-areas/environment/bilateral-and-regional-trade-agreements>. Visit <http://www.state.gov> and the USTR website at www.ustr.gov for more information.

Sherry Z. Sykes,

Director, Office of Environmental Quality,

U.S. Department of State.

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